

IN THE United States District Court
For THE District of Delaware

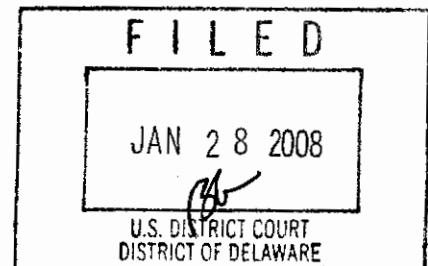
Michael Durham,

PETITIONER,

Civ. Act. No. 07-370-***

v.

ELIZABETH BURRIS, attorney
WARDEN AND JOSEPH R. BIDEN
III, Attorney General



Response Answer to State

Vindictive prosecution prosecutors unreasonably charged petitioner based on Accomplice liability and Counsel rendered ineffective assistance of Counsel when she failed to request a jury instruction on a complete instruction on Accomplice liability pursuant to 11 Del. Code § 274 that "Each person is guilty of an offense of such degree as is compatible with that person's own Culpability..." those instructions were warranted by the evidence, would provided the Jury with a verdict option. When, pursuant to § 271 of this, title 202 more persons are criminally liable for an offense which is divided into degrees, each person is guilty of an offense of such degree as is compatible with that person's own Culpable mental state and with that person's own accountability for an Aggravating fact or Circumstance.

In order to prevail under the sixth amendment on the grounds of ineffective assistance of counsel. The defendant must show that counsel's representation fell below an objective standard of reasonableness "and" that there is a reasonable probability that, but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the result of the proceeding would have been different. Strickland vs. Washington, 466 U.S. 668, 688, 694 (1984) Albury v. State, 551 A.2d 53 (Del. 1988)

Defendant should have never been charged with accomplice liability.

The prosecutor let prejudiced testimony of Detective Humphrey go uncorrected. Detective Humphrey stated that he "think" that the victim mentioned petitioner's name at the scene. Detective Humphrey never had any notes of his interview and victim was there to testify. This narrative interpretation should have been objected by defendant counsel.

more than thirty years ago. In Huggins v. State, this Court held: it is the statement of declarant that is the statement being admitted, not the interpretative narrative of the person who heard the statement. Care should be taken to guarantee that the statute is not abused by permitting a witness such as a police officer, to embellish

the prior statement by his own interpretation, even if the embellishment is made in the utmost good faith. Obviously, THE best protection in this regard is a written statement. In the case of oral statement, the best safeguard would seem to be in foundation questions establishing the time, the place and the person to whom the statement was made. These are the traditional safeguards in treating a witness fairly when impeaching him by a prior inconsistent statement. It would seem no less a standard should be required for evidence having substantive independent testimonial value. Huggins v. State, 339 A.2d 28, 29-30 (Del. 1975); Morgan v. State, (2006); Title 11, § 3507

Detective Murphy should not have given an interpretative statement but was allowed by prosecutor and defense counsel did not object.

Defendant counsel is responsible for issues on direct appeal and did not appeal these issues. The court should find her ineffective. Counsel never met with defendant to explore other appealable issue defendant had to do it on his own. Defendant cause for procedural default is attributable to defense counsel

Defense Counsel never asked for proper instruction. A defendant is entitled to an instruction for a lesser included offense when "there is a rational basis in the evidence of a verdict acquitting [a] defendant of the offense charged and convicting him or her of the included offense" *Johnson v. State*, 711 A.2d 18, 31 (Del. 1998). A trial Judge must give a lesser-included offense instruction at the request of either party if the evidence presented is such that a jury could rationally find the defendant guilty of the lesser-included offense and acquit the defendant of the greater offense. *STATE v. COX*, 851 A.2d 1269, 1273 (Del. 2003)

At common law the jury was permitted to find the defendant guilty of any lesser offense necessarily included in the offense charged. This practice offered the jury a choice other than a guilty verdict on the offense charged or acquittal - often described as "All or Nothing" it has long been recognized that jury instructions on lesser-included offense can be beneficial to a criminal defendant by "providing the jury with the third option of convicting on a lesser included offense [thereby] ensuring that the jury will accord the defendant full benefit

of the Reasonable-Doubt Standard. STATE v. COX, 851 A.2d 1269, 1271 (Del. 2003)

As a general rule, the burden of requesting a lesser including offense jury instruction is placed upon defense counsel with formulated trial strategies, CHAO v. STATE, 604 A.2d 1351, 1358 (Del. 1992)

Courts in various jurisdictions have found ineffective-assistance of counsel where trial counsel's "all or nothing" strategy was designed to force the jury to acquit of the greater offense and avoid a compromise verdict on the lesser offense. See United States ex rel. BARNARD v. JANE, 819 F.2d 998 (7th Cir. 1987), STATE v. WARD, 125 Wash. App. 243, 104 P.3d 670 (2004), People v. Lemke, 349 Ill. App. 3d 391, 811* N.E.2d 708 (2004).

It is no answer to petitioners demand for a jury instruction on a lesser offense to argue that a defendant may be better off without such a instruction. True, if prosecution has not established beyond a reasonable doubt every element of the offense charged and if no lesser offense instruction is offered.

THE Jury must as a theoretical matter return a verdict of Acquittal. But a defendant is entitled to a lesser offense instruction in this context or any other - precisely because he should not be exposed to the substantial risk that the Jury's practice will freeze from theory. Where one of the elements of the offense charged remains in doubt but the defendant is plainly guilty of some offense the Jury is likely to resolve its doubts in favor of conviction Keeble v. United States, 412 U.S. 205, 212-213 (1973).

Here the Jury was not instead to make an individualized determination of Durham's mental state. Counsel's tactic prejudiced Durham under the circumstances given that Durham was looking at a mandatory sentence based upon his status as a habitual offender and because a lesser included offense instruction would not have jeopardized his appeal to the Jury for an outright Acquittal.

Murray v. Carrier, 477 U.S. 478 (1986)

If the procedural default is the result of ineffective assistance of counsel the sixth Amendment itself requires that responsibility

for the default be imputed to the state which may not [conduct] trials at which persons who face in carceral must defend themselves without adequate legal assistance, ineffective assistance of counsel, then is cause for a procedural default.

Counsel erred so grievous that her performance fell below an objective standard of reasonableness and the outcome prejudice defendant that he was found guilty and declared an habitual.

Counsel did not seek plea agreement for defendant, nor investigate other appealable issues. Counsel failed to object to unconstitutional acts render her ineffective.

For the foregoing reasons, the petition for writ of habeas corpus should be granted.

Date: January 23, 2008

Michael Dunham
MICHAEL DUNHAM 161286
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Smyrna, DE 19977

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on JANUARY 23, 2008, I sent the following response to States Answer to the following entity(ies)

Deputy Attorney General
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Department of Justice
820 N. French St.
Wilm, De. 19801

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United States District Court
844 N. King Street, Lockbox 18
Wilm, De. 19801-3570

on this, 23 day of January 2008 by placing it in the U.S. mail

Dated: 1/23/08

Michael Duvche

IM MICHAEL DURHAM

SBI# 161286 UNIT C-Bids

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19801-3570

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